

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

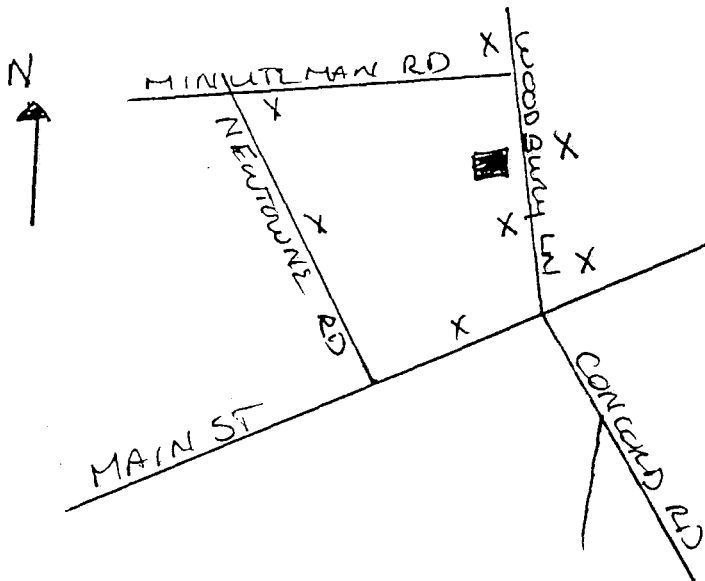
AREA B FORM NO. 119



Location ACTON  
Address 16 Woodbury Lane  
Historic Name First Evangelical Church  
Usage Present single family residential  
Original single family residential  
Description 1851-1856  
Survey map analysis  
Style Greco-Italianate / altered

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north

Assessor's Map # F-3A-13



Architect unknown  
Exterior Wall Fabric pressed wood shingles  
Outbuildings barn set into slope on raised fieldstone and granite foundation remodelled  
Major Alterations (with dates) siding, fenestration, barn remodelling with sliders, etc.  
Condition fair  
Moved no Date n/a  
Acreage less than one acre  
Setting West side of small secondary road opposite Town Hall parking lot, near center of village with 19th century civic and residential surroundings  
Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler  
Organization Acton Historical Commission  
Date March 1990

UTM REFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_  
USGS QUADRANGLE \_\_\_\_\_  
SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER IN 1983  
ACTON CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlas / Birdseye / Maps: 1851, 1856, 1871, 1875, 1889, 1892.  
Fletcher, Acton In History, 1890.  
Phalen, History of the Town of Acton, 1954.  
National Register Nomination, MHC, 1983.  
Vital Records for Acton.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:  ACTON	Form No:  B-119
Property Name: 16 Woodbury Lane	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - 16 WOODBURY LANE

Once a picturesque 2-story, gable front cottage with 2-story side ell and attached barn, the dwelling has been altered with pressed wood shingles, a large multi-light window in the gable front, and the removal of trim such as corner boards and cornice returns. The house rests on a granite foundation and has 1 and 2 story recently added rear additions. The chimney extended above the roof line at the L formed by the gable front and side ell.

The gable front of the main facade, with no cornice returns, has the large picture window on the first story and a 6/6 sashed second story window narrow applied molding on the inside of the otherwise plain wood surround. The side ell has a full length hipped roof porch which extends slightly beyond the gable front part of the house. The porch has turned posts with open cut brackets of elaborate scroll design. A modern screen lattice has been erected between two posts to screen the side ell entrance. The modern glass and wood door has one 6/6 window next to it. There are two small 3/3 sashed second story windows over the porch.

The south side of the house has two 6/6 windows down and two 3/3 windows up, a 1-story rear ell with modern window and a 2-story shed roof rear ell beyond that. On the north side the gable end of the 2-story side ell has two 6/6 windows (one up and one down). The barn is visible on this side displaying the way in which it is built into the slope on a raised fieldstone and granite foundation with clapboard siding. The barn has been remodelled with 4 sections of modern sliders. The gable front elevation viewed from Woodbury Lane has two garage doors and a 1/1 sashed window in the gable peak.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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Community: ACTON	Form No: B-119
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HISTORICAL STATEMENT - 16 WOODBURY LANE

Acton Centre, once known as Acton Village, developed as the civic and institutional center of the large sprawling town which has several 19th century village centers. Acton Centre took on its suburban institutional form around the elongated Common from 1806 when the Second Meeting House was built and several local citizens bought surrounding farms and laid out house lots and built an hotel and some commercial buildings around the Common. The only industrial site was a shoe factory (no longer extant) opposite the Common. Most Acton industrial properties were located in South and West Acton due to the water power and location of the railroad in 1844 both of which bypassed Acton Centre. Subsequent development included the Evangelical Church, the Town Hall replacing the Second Meeting House, and finally the Library as well as many mid-19th century Greek Revival houses for artisans and professionals. Acton Centre is the approximated geographic center of Acton and appropriately remains the civic center.

Named for the Rev. James Woodbury (1803-1861), first minister of the Evangelical Church from 1832 to 1852, the short dead end road was formerly known as Monument Street for the Davis Monument which was at the head of the short road. The Rev. Woodbury lived at the north end of Woodbury Lane and was instrumental in having the Davis Monument built on the Common.

Built soon after the Rev. James Woodbury left the Acton Evangelical Church this house was constructed as housing for the Church's ministers; thus, it was known as the First Evangelical Church Parsonage. The Rev. Woodbury had had his own house farther north on Woodbury Lane, more commonly known as Monument Street at the time of construction of the Parsonage. The house was built on the land of and under the direction of the Hon. Stephens Hayward who lived in a no longer extant mansion at 468 Main Street. Pastors living here included the Rev. Benjamin Dodge (1852-1855), the Rev. Charles Rockwell (1855-1856), and the Rev. Joseph Garland (1857-1859). It is presumed that this house was used as the parsonage until the Second Parsonage at 1 Wood Street was built in 1875. Although there was a short period between 1869 and 1871 in which there was no appointed ordained minister of the church. And by 1870 the house is listed on maps as being owned by the Hon. John Fletcher (1827-1899) who lived at 430 Main Street and probably leased this house to workers in his boot factory.

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